

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SCA-01 /087 R

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IO/UNP:LSTERMER

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R 242341Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION GENEVA

CINCPAC

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FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, VN, US

SUBJECT:RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING PW/MIAS IN INDOCHINA

1. THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL SUMMARY FOR POSTS' INFORMATION OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS REGARDING THE ISSUE OF AMERICAN PRISONERS AND MISSING INACTION IN INDOCHINA.

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2. ON SEPTEMBER 6, 1976 THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN PARIS GAVE OUR EMBASSY A LIST OF 12 AMERICAN AIRMEN KILLED WHEN THEIR AIRCRAFT CRASHED IN NVN. THE LIST WAS SIMULTANEOUSLY RELEASED TO THE PRESS. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE PRESIDENT PERSONALLY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING THAT EMBASSY PARIS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ADVISE THE VIETNAMESE THAT THE U.S. EXPECTED A FULL ACCOUNTING ON ALL AMERICANS MISSING IN VIETNAM. HE WELCOMED THE INFORMATION ON THE TWELVE, BUT NOTED THAT THE SRV HAD INFORMATION ON HUNDREDS MORE AND THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS COULDN'T TAKE PLACE UNTIL VIETNAM RENDERS A FULL ACCOUNTING. THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN CALLED THE TWELVE NAMES A "TOKEN LIST", WHICH DID NOT CONSTITUTE ANY REASON TO MOVE ON THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

3. ON SEPTEMBER 10-13, THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MET IN WASHINGTON AND REITERATED ITS

STRONG STAND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD OPPOSE THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION FOR UN MEMBERSHIP UNTIL THERE IS A FULL ACCOUNTING FOR AMERICAN MIAS. THE GROUP MET WITH UNDER SECRETARY HABIB ON SEPT. 11TH TO URGE THIS POSITION ON THE DEPARTMENT.

4. THE VIETNAMESE UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION WAS SCHEDULED FOR SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION ON SEPT. 14TH. ON THE 13TH THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN PARIS ADVISED OUR EMBASSY THAT THE SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY WOULD RELEASE THE NOTES WE HAVE EXCHANGED SINCE MARCH 1976. THE SRV STATEMENT, WHICH ACCOMPANIED THE TEXT OF THE NOTES, CHARACTERIZED A STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR SCRANTON DEPLORING THE LACK OF PROGRESS ON THE MIA ISSUE AS "A TRICK AIMED AT FLAGRANTLY DISTORTING THE TRUTH" WHICH COMPELLED THE SRV TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT BY RELEASING THE NOTES. THE STATEMENT WENT ON TO REPEAT THE STANDARD SRV POSITION LINKING AN ACCOUNTING FOR MIAS TO U.S. FULFILLMENT OF ITS "OBLIGATION" UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT TO "HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR". CONTRASTING THE VIETNAMESE "SERIOUS ATTITUDE AND GOODWILL" WITH U.S. "ARROGANT, HOSTILE POLICY TOWARD VIETNAM" THE SRV FOREIGN MINISTRY ACCUSED THE USG OF OBSTRUCTING THE BILATERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKS AND CALLED FOR AN EARLY REPLY TO ITS LATEST NOTE.

5. SHORTLY AFTER THE RELEASE OF THIS STATEMENT, AMBASSADOR SCRANTON MET WITH THE PRESIDENT AND ANNOUNCED THE U.S. INTENTION TO VETO VIETNAM'S UN MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION. HE SAID THAT HANOI'S CONTINUED FAILURE TO MAKE A FULL ACCOUNTING OF AMERICAN MIAS IN VIETNAM SHOWED THAT THE SRV LACKED THE COMMITMENTS TO PEACE AND HUMANITARIAN-

ISM NECESSARY FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. SCRANTON REFERRED TO THE SRV'S BRUTAL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT OF THE MIA FAMILIES TWO YEARS AFTER THE END OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN THE INDO-CHINA WAR AND STATED THAT DOMESTIC POLITICS PLAYED NO ROLE IN THE DECISION.

6. ON SEPT. 14TH, A SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WAS CANCELLED AND THE COUNCIL MET FOR INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS INSTEAD. THE FRENCH PROPOSED AND THE SRV OBSERVER AGREED TO DEFERRAL OF THE VIETNAMESE APPLICATION UNTIL NOVEMBER "SO THAT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT DISCUSS THE CANDIDACY AT ITS 31ST SESSION". THERE WERE NO OBJECTIONS TO THIS PROPOSAL. KISSINGER

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